



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County *FORWARD* Together

WINTER 2022



Steve F. Taylor

Milwaukee County
17th District Supervisor

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Committee Assignments

Community, Environment,
& Economic Development
Committee,
Chair

Intergovernmental
Relations Committee,
Vice-Chair

Finance Committee

Parks & Culture
Committee

Capital Improvements
Committee

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Dear Friends,

Let me start by saying **Thank You** for giving me the opportunity to serve you during the 2022–24 Milwaukee County Board term. It's a privilege to represent the residents of the City of Franklin and City of Oak Creek on the Board.

This is not a job that I needed to do, but instead one where I felt I could be of service. Milwaukee County is facing a fiscal cliff in the next five years, and only common sense and fiscal responsibility will determine if the County survives. I felt my prior six years in office and the institutional knowledge I bring to the table could help this relatively inexperienced body.

I am sure you have heard the stories about our fiscal challenges, pension issues, shortage of employees, deferred maintenance, lack of revenue, and so on and so on. You may have encountered a closed pool, roads needing major repair/reconstruction, bus routes cut and no longer in service, and your favorite park that doesn't seem to get the love and attention it once did.

These are some of the issues that Milwaukee County deals with daily, and without an increase in revenue the result will be – to be blunt – a death sentence. Starting in approximately 2027, discretionary dollars (mostly from property taxes) will have to go towards state and federal mandated services. This means there will be no money for our parks, pools, roads, buses, museums, senior centers, and even our zoo. The County will not be able to operate as it does today. **Continued on page 2...**



Supervisor Taylor being sworn in by Deputy County Clerk Stefan Dostanic.



Supervisor Taylor at the annual County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing.

Get In Touch With Supervisor Taylor

Please contact my office through my website at county.milwaukee.gov/SteveTaylor. Feel free to offer comments regarding any matter concerning Milwaukee County. Additionally, you may send an email to Steve.Taylor@milwaukeecountywi.gov to sign up for my e-newsletter "Privileged to Serve."

In the Community

17th District Updates

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To solve the problem (some of which was self-inflicted), the State of Wisconsin must allow Milwaukee County to impose a 1% sale tax on its residents. For conservatives like myself, this isn't an easy pill to swallow—especially considering the numerous poor policy decisions and wasteful spending that has occurred in the past.

Getting this authorization will be an uphill battle if the Board continues to make political partisan decisions. For example, placing two non-binding referendum questions (1. "Prohibiting the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of semi-automatic 'military-style' firearms" [22-776] and 2. "Allowing adults 21 years of age and older to engage in the personal use of marijuana, while also regulating commercial marijuana-related activities, and imposing a tax on the sale of marijuana" [22-800]) on the November ballot was politically motivated; these are issues on which the Board cannot effectuate policy change. Decisions like this are unfortunate because they take focus away from the important work that needs to be done, as well as pit Milwaukee County against the Republican-controlled legislature that controls our financial future.

What happens if Milwaukee County is not allowed to impose a sales tax, and therefore we can't provide the services that our residents need? That hasn't been determined yet but considering that Milwaukee County is an arm of the State, it is conceivable that the State could take over County government. I am not saying this will happen, but unless this Board makes every decision based on fiscal sanity and not to gain political popularity, it becomes a definite possibility.

As the calendar turns to 2023, please know that I am here to assist you the best I can. Feel free to reach out to my office with any issues or to voice your opinion on matters facing Milwaukee County.

All My Best!!



Steve F. Taylor
17th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Runway Dog Park Update

Runway Dog Park in Oak Creek has been used as an off-leash dog park for the past 15 years. However, although the dog park has been managed by Milwaukee County Parks, the land is owned by Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, which means it is under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) oversight.



As part of a recent review of a new Mitchell International Airport master plan, the FAA determined that all airport-owned land must only be used for aviation-related activities. A dog park is not a qualifying activity according to the FAA, and continued use of the dog park would jeopardize federal funding for the airport. Therefore, the dog park was closed indefinitely beginning on November 1, 2022.

Understanding how frustrating it is to lose a much-loved amenity, we included funding in the 2023 County Budget for the Parks Department to identify any other sites that could be a suitable replacement for Runway Dog Park. For updates on the study, and to share your feedback on potential locations, visit www.mkecountyparks.org/runway-dog-park

Fortunately, your pets can still enjoy six other dog parks in the county that are included in your annual dog park pass. These include the Warnimont Dog Park in Cudahy, Roverwest in the Riverwest neighborhood of Milwaukee, Estabrook Dog Park in Shorewood, Currie Dog Park in Wauwatosa, Bay View Dog Park in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood, and Granville Dog Exercise Area in north-west Milwaukee.



Supervisor Taylor at the 2023 County Budget Adoption Meeting.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. Simply dial 2-1-1. If you want detailed information please go to: www.impactinc.org/impact-211

In the Community

Ensuring the Well-Being of Milwaukee County Residents

Milwaukee County Recommended Budget Avoids Major Service Cuts

Milwaukee County has just concluded another budget season. On Thursday, November 10, after nearly 12 straight hours of debate and voting on amendments, the County Board of Supervisors successfully adopted our 2023 Milwaukee County Budget.

Many of the amendments I sponsored this year successfully made it into the final 2023 Adopted Budget, including an allocation of \$294,970 to replace the boat launch roadway in Bender Park. Funding was also included to reconfigure and repair the Bender Park boat launch itself, as well as to connect the park to the Oak Leaf Trail.

This year's budget was aided by some good fortune in a couple of areas that averted major cuts and allowed for some targeted investments that align with the County's strategic plan. Robust growth in the county's current 0.5% sales tax helped stave off service cuts. \$25 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds filled a gap in mass transit funding for this year, though the County Executive included reduced service for routes 34, 52, 88, and 92.

The Parks Department was the beneficiary of a \$1.5 million increase over last year in the Adopted Budget. This includes a net of 17 new positions, primarily focused on park maintenance. Five outdoor pools are budgeted to be open for 2023. Golf, boat slip rental, and facility rental fees are proposed to increase.

While major service cuts have been avoided for another year, without a sustainable, long-term solution to its growing structural deficit, Milwaukee County will have no local dollars for services such as parks, transit, or many of the human services residents rely on. Milwaukee County continues to work alongside the Move Forward MKE coalition to pursue a 1% local option sales tax, to be paired with property tax relief. The 1% sales tax is our county's best option to ensure the future of these services.

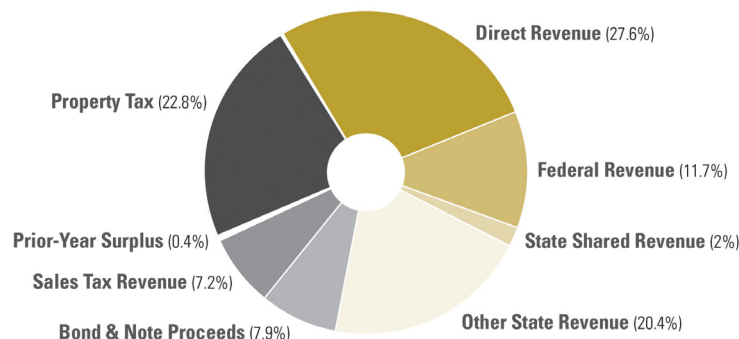
The County Board's budget process is guided by principles of racial equity, preparation, collaboration, sustainability, and decorum championed by Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson. These guiding principles help create a constructive, focused, and respectful process that ensures all voices are heard.



Supervisor Taylor speaking at the 2023 County Budget Adoption Meeting.

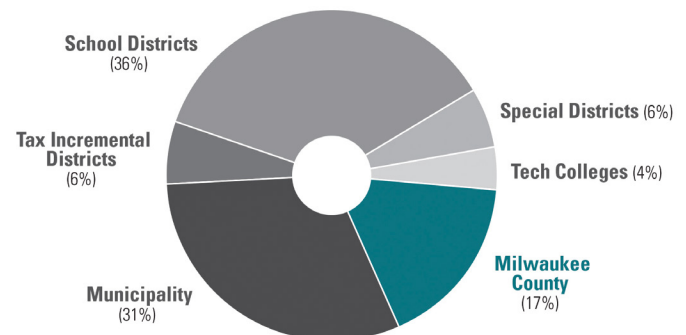
COMPOSITION OF 2023 BUDGETED COUNTYWIDE REVENUE

Milwaukee County now relies more on direct revenue such as golf fees, beer garden sales, and zoo admission for its operations than any other source.



2022 DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

The various taxing entities in Milwaukee County collect approximately \$1.86 billion in property taxes annually. Of this total, Milwaukee County government makes up about 17%.





Supervisor Steve F. Taylor
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
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**"Any definition of a successful life
must include serving others."
– George H.W. Bush**

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Energy Assistance is Available

Through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, qualified Milwaukee County residents can receive a one-time annual payment* to make your heating and electric bills more affordable!



1. See if you qualify.

Go to KeepWarmMKE.org to check income guidelines and see if you qualify. 175,000 county residents will. You may also qualify for services like furnace repair, weatherization and crisis benefits.

2. Make an appointment or complete your application online.

- Apply October 1 - May 15.
- Visit KeepWarmMKE.org or
- Call 270-4MKE (4653). Dial 211 for after-hours help.

3. Due to COVID-19, all appointments are conducted by phone.

A team member will call you at your scheduled appointment time to process your application.

**Funding covers a portion of energy costs; it is not intended to pay your entire energy bill. How much funding you receive depends on several factors, including your income, size of your home or apartment, and energy costs. (In most cases, the annual Energy Assistance monetary benefit will be paid directly to your energy supplier.)*

Get up-to-date information on FREE
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Service Guide for 17th District Milwaukee County Residents

17th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Steve F. Taylor (414) 278-4263

Aging and Disability Resource Center (414) 289-6874

Airports

Mitchell International Airport (414) 747-5300

Timmerman Airport (414) 461-3222

Child Support Enforcement (414) 615-2593

Clerk of Circuit Court (414) 278-5362

County Clerk (414) 278-4067

County Executive (414) 278-4211

County Treasurer (414) 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims) (414) 278-5362

Criminal Division (414) 278-4538

Children's Court (414) 257-7700

Dept. of Health and Human Services (414) 289-6897

District Attorney's Office (414) 278-4646

Election Commission (414) 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff (non-emergency) (414) 278-4788

TDD Emergency (414) 278-5252

Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) (414) 272-2876

Emergency Management (24 hours) (414) 257-4709

Suicide Prevention/Intervention/

Mental Health Crisis (414) 257-7222

Fraud Hotline (414) 93-FRAUD

House of Correction (414) 427-4700

Jury Services

General Information (414) 278-4469

Reserve Juror Message (414) 985-6000

Marcus Performing Arts Center (414) 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing Lic ... (414) 278-4067

Medical Examiner (414) 223-1200

Milwaukee Art Museum (414) 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society (414) 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

Boerner Botanical Gardens (414) 525-5600

General Information (414) 257-7275

Parks Hotline (414) 257-5100

Organized Sports (414) 257-8030

Golf Office (414) 257-8024

District 17 Parks

Bender Park (414) 762-1550

Clement's Park (414) 257-7275

Falk Park (414) 762-1550

Grobschmidt Park (414) 281-6289

Johnstone Park (414) 766-7920

Riverton Meadows Park (414) 257-7275

Milwaukee County Zoo (414) 771-3040

Milwaukee County Sports Complex (414) 281-2694

Milwaukee Public Museum (414) 278-2702

Municipalities

Franklin (414) 425-7500

Oak Creek (414) 766-7000

Office of Persons with Disabilities (414) 278-3932

Register in Probate (414) 278-4444

Register of Deeds (414) 278-4021

Rent Assistance (414) 278-4902

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares (414) 344-6711

Customer Comments (414) 937-3218

Transit Plus (414) 343-1700

UW-Extension (414) 256-4600

Veterans Services (414) 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service (414) 278-4667